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**Immortality**  
Rose Ausländer

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**Rose Ausländer**

IMMORTALITY

From a gypsy, I once acquired a scarf that made me invisible. I bought it with one quarter of my immortal soul. Three quarters immortality is enough for me. I don't know how the All-Mighty will make accounting. Hopefully, I will be able to suffer a quarter less up there. On earth, a full soul is intolerable. I was lucky to lose at least a fourth of it so I could move through the world without being seen. That's how I experience the true nature of my friends. Sooner or later, I learn that one or the other of my friends is anything but a friend. But when you only have three quarters of a soul, it hurts one quarter less.

Translated from the German by **Gary Sea**